



WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS  
*and* UPCOMING EVENTS  
*for the week of*  
*November 29, 2020*

We are a Christ-centered community that  
lives, shares and celebrates God's grace with  
all people!

**ST. THOMAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

3800 East Third Street  
Bloomington, Indiana 47401  
Phone: (812) 332-5252  
Rev. Adrienne Meier, Pastor  
pastoradrienne@gmail.com

## **November 29, First Sunday of Advent**



We continue with our virtual worship service. The service will be available on YouTube at 11:00 a.m. Sunday.

You may use this link to access the service:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/StThomasLutheranChurchBloomington>  
or access the link from the St Thomas website (stlconline.org).



### **Advent Prayer at Noon**

On Wednesdays during Advent (beginning December 2), join Pr. Adrienne for 15 minutes of prayer at noon on Zoom. After taking prayer requests, we'll move through a simple, spoken liturgy of prayer for ourselves and our world. Pr. Adrienne will leave the Zoom room open afterwards for anyone who would like a little time to catch up. Follow this link each week to join in:

<https://bit.ly/stlc2020adventprayer>



### **Advent Midweek Services**

The first two chapters of Luke's gospel can be compared to a Broadway musical, with characters breaking into song at seemingly random times. These songs, though, are filled with hope and a longing for a renewed world. Our Advent Midweek services, which will premiere on YouTube at 7pm on Wednesdays, will center around these songs: Mary's Magnificat, Zechariah's Benedictus, Simeon's Nunc Dimittas, and the angel chorus's Gloria. We will hear the songs both chanted and set as a hymn featuring our talented staff musicians. Candidly, when we recorded our first service, nothing in technology went according to plan, but the liturgy, music, and message carried us into a hope we had been longing for. We present these services to you, that you, too, might be held by this Advent message of hope. St. Thomas's YouTube channel can be found at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/StThomasLutheranChurchBloomington>

## Virtual Narthex - December 6

The December Virtual Narthex occurs on St. Nicholas Day. We'll be joined by a representative from MCUM and share our favorite childhood Christmas gifts. Bring your own coffee and join us for casual conversation on Zoom on Sunday, December 6 at 10:10am. The link to join is:

<http://bit.ly/virtualnarthexnov1>



## St. Nicholas Zoom Party

There are a great number of celebrations throughout the season of Advent that we often gloss over, one of them is the Feast of St. Nicholas on December 6. In lieu of our traditional Advent Dinner, we're having a celebration on Zoom on St. Nicholas Day. Watch the weekly for a link to a fun packet of ideas – like crafts, stories, facts, and recipes for kids and grown-ups – to celebrate the season of Advent and this fun feast. Then join us on Zoom at 4pm to hear stories, craft, and enjoy fellowship with your St. Thomas friends. This is an **intergenerational event**, which means everyone is welcomed to attend. Kids and their families can pick up a craft kit per kid beginning Monday, November 30 outside the east door. The link to join us is:

<https://bit.ly/stlcstnick>

**Spread some Christmas cheer to college students this year!** Rose House LuMin is collecting Christmas cards written to the college students by members of our St Thomas community. Our hope is for the cards to include well wishes, prayers, and joy for the holiday season. The cards will be included in the end of semester care packages that we are sending out to the students. Cards will be collected at St Thomas and Rose House through Wednesday December 2nd. A clearly labeled container is outside of the front doors at St Thomas for contactless drop-off.

**Call for Pictures:** Participate in Christmas Eve worship! Send a picture of your family holding lit candles. During the singing of Silent Night, we will see the faces of one another and be able to lift each in prayer. Upload your picture by noon December 15 to

<https://bit.ly/stlxcmasphotos>

**COVID status:**

We are in Phase 1

Building: Locked, please call to be admitted to the building for your appointment.

Staff: Working from home or the office.

Small Groups: Meet online. Small groups of less than 10 may meet at the church *at the discretion of the staff* and following all safety protocols. Small groups may also meet outside following physical distancing and other safety protocols.

Worship: Virtual

**Online Shopping for Fair-Trade Gifts & Goodies:** It's that time of year again! St. Thomas' Sister Parish committee invites you to do some [holiday shopping](#) to help fund future delegation trips between Chichipate, Guatemala and Bloomington, Indiana.

You'll find past favorites - such as chocolate bars and Christmas decorations - and much more through [this online sales event](#). Help us surpass our sales goal of \$1000 by Christmas, which will enable us to earn an even higher commission while also supporting the mission of SERRV, an international fair-trade nonprofit established in 1949. It's a win-win-win!



[Use our custom web link](#) to see all SERRV's handcrafts and order items that will be shipped directly to you. (Check that you see St. Thomas in an orange banner at the top of the page to ensure your order is being applied to this fundraiser.) Please also share [this custom web link](#) with anyone you know who would appreciate SERRV items and enjoy supporting Sister Parish!

If you would like help making an order, please contact Kaye Hill at [kayehill48@gmail.com](mailto:kayehill48@gmail.com). She may not be sitting behind a table in the narthex this year, but she and her team are on the job!

## Supporting our Missions through Amazon Smile

- Invitation from Ronna Papesh

If you are unable to shop locally, I invite you to designate one of our St. Thomas mission partners as a recipient at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). Katcha and I designated **Sister Parish, Inc.** as our charity, and would appreciate others doing so as well. Once you have selected a charity, you only need to confirm you see the word “smile” in the address bar as you are making purchases at Amazon to generate funds for your designated mission. I know of other St. Thomas members who designated **LuMin** (Lutheran Campus Ministry Board – Bloomington IN), **Lutheran Hills Camp** (Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Indiana/Kentucky), **MCUM** (Monroe County United Ministries), and other missions listed on the St. Thomas website. So, if you are already shopping on Amazon, please consider shopping on Amazon Smile instead to support our missions.

**A generous donation has been received to renew the prayer garden behind St. Thomas.** Work will begin in a few weeks by removing bushes throughout the area. After the bushes are removed, a plan will be developed and the congregation will have an opportunity to review the plan before the council votes to approve it next spring. Kathleen Boggess and Debbie Selk are leading this project with the help of a newly formed Landscape Committee.



### Want to join our St. Thomas email prayer chain?

Do you have prayer requests? Contact Susan Colston [skcolston@aol.com](mailto:skcolston@aol.com) for further information.

**Prayers for those with health and safety concerns:** Anne Smith, Jim Ward, Bruce Herlin, Carole Kirsch, Tim Kirsch, Roger Sasse, Paula Ionescu, Erica Marer, Bev Hanna, Liz Caemmerer, Audrey Alpers, JoAnne Namy, Deborah O'Brien, and Casey-Marie.



**Offerings** may be mailed to the church or given by setting up online giving from our website [here](#). Look for the green Donate to St. Thomas button on the website homepage.

## **Chats with Pr. Adrienne**

Join Pr. Adrienne for one-on-one conversations in the narthex or on Zoom. Individuals, or couples or families who all live together, are welcome to sign up for these chats. There is no agenda, but is a way for you to share a bit of yourself and your life with Pr. Adrienne and for her to introduce herself to you. Please wear a mask. Sign up at this link: <https://calendly.com/pastoradrienne/chats-with-pr-a> or call the church office.